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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An optical system for forming an image of at least a portion of an illuminated area on an object may comprise a lens positioned a spaced distance from the illuminated area on the object and an aperture stop positioned so that it is substantially co-planar with the image side focal plane of the lens. An occluding element is positioned between the lens and the illuminated area on the object so that the occluding element blocks a predetermined amount of light from a brightly illuminated region in the illuminated area but does not substantially block light from a less brightly illuminated region in the illuminated area.

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